

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting on July 15, 2015 at the Legislative Office Building, Room 1-A, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Patricia C. Bouffard, RN, Chair
Mary M. Brown, RN
Lisa S. Freeman, Public Member
Ellen M. Komar, RN
Jennifer Long, APRN
Gina M. Reiners, RN
Carrie Simon, Public Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Geraldine Marrocco, RN

ALSO PRESENT: Stacy M. Schulman, Legal Counsel to the Board, DPH
Alfreda G. Gaither, Legal Co-Counsel to the Board, DPH
Pamela Pelletier-Stevens, Nurse Consultant, DPH
Helen Centeno, Nurse Consultant, DPH
Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney, OLRC, DPH
Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, OLRC, DPH
Leslie Scoville, Staff Attorney, OLRC, DPH
Ellen M. Shanley, Staff Attorney, OLRC, DPH
Janice E. Wojick, Administrative Assistant, DPH
Gail Gregoriades, Court Reporter

Chair Patricia Bouffard called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM.

STUDENTS

Chair Bouffard welcomed students from Lincoln Technical Institute – the New Britain Campus, and Goodwin College.

CHAIR UPDATES

Chair Bouffard will provide the Board with an update of the Board of Directors Meeting at a later date.

Kathleen Boulware, Mary Brown, Jennifer Long, and Gina Reiners will be attending the NCSBN Annual Delegate Assembly in Chicago – August 17 – 20, 2015.

OPEN FORUM

There were no questions or concerns from the audience.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS AND REORDERING OF AGENDA

There were no additional agenda items.

2015 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

This will be discussed at a later date.

SCHOOL ISSUES: WAIVER REQUEST – NORWALK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dr. Kathleen Fries was present from the program. Helen Centeno provided the Board with the waiver request. Gina Reiners moved to grant the one year faculty education waiver to Natalie Lamothe Garcia. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Long and passed unanimously. Ms. Garcia's anticipated graduation will be in January 2016.

FACT FINDING – SHERI L. JULIAN, LPN

Ms. Julian was not present nor did she have representation at this meeting and the Department of Public Health was not represented in this case.

Lisa Freeman moved, which was seconded by Gina Reiners, that Ms. Julian be found as charged. The motion passed with one abstention, Ellen Komar.

Lisa Freeman moved that Ms. Julian's license be placed on suspension for one year with concurrent probation for five years. During the suspension, the drug/alcohol screen reports are to be provided weekly, therapist reports monthly, support group attendance a minimum of eight times per month. Upon completion of the suspension then the normal four year probationary terms will commence. The motion was seconded by Mary Brown and failed as three were in favor, three were opposed, with Ellen Komar abstaining. Lisa Freeman then raised a new motion for revocation of Ms. Julian's license. The motion was seconded by Carrie Simon and passed with one abstention, Ellen Komar.

FACT FINDING – TAMMARA MOREY, LPN

Ms. Morey was not present nor did she have representation at this meeting. Ellen M. Shanley was present for the Department.

Lisa Freeman moved, which was seconded by Gina Reiners, to find Ms. Morey as charged. The motion passed with one abstention, Ellen Komar.

Based on the fact that Ms. Morey did not file an Answer to the Statement of Charges and she did not attend her hearing, and it did not appear that she was engaged or committed to a recovery program, Lisa Freeman moved that Ms. Morey's license be revoked. Gina Reiners seconded the motion which passed with one abstention, Ellen Komar.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION – Nakisha Altreche LPN

OLRC Staff Attorney Leslie Scoville presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Nakisha Altreche. Ms. Altreche was not present and did not have representation at this meeting.

Gina Reiners moved to grant the Department's Motion for Summary Suspension. The motion was seconded by Carrie Simon and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Summary Suspension Order and the Notice of Hearing scheduling the hearing for August 5, 2015.

CONSENT ORDER – CINDY L. MAYHEW, RN

OLRC Staff Attorney Leslie Scoville presented the Board with a Consent Order for Cindy L. Mayhew. Ms. Mayhew was not present and did not have representation at this meeting. Ellen Komar moved to accept the Consent Order as written. The motion was seconded by Gina Reiners and did not pass. It was the recommendation of the Board that Ms. Mayhew's license be placed on probation for one year with monthly employer reports, coursework in ethics and patient rights, CPR refresher and recertification, review policies of the facility confirmed by the supervisor, and Ms. Mayhew is to develop and participate in two mock codes which is to be signed by the supervisor.

CONSENT ORDER – SANIA BECKFORD, RN

OLRC Staff Attorney Ellen M. Shanley presented the Board with a Consent Order for Sania Beckford. Ms. Beckford was not present and did not have representation at this meeting. Mary Brown moved to deny the Consent Order as written. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Long and passed unanimously. The Board stated that this was an intentional falsification. It was the recommendation of the Board that Ms. Beckford's license be placed on probation for six months with monthly employer reports and coursework in medication administration that includes the handling of wasted narcotics.

HEARING – DENISE LaBONTE, RN

Staff Attorney Ellen M. Shanley was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. LaBonte was not present and did not have representation. There was no testimony provided. Attorney Shanley made an Oral Motion to Deem Allegations Admitted. Mary Brown moved to grant the Department's Motion to Deem, which was seconded by Lisa Freeman, and passed unanimously.

Mary Brown moved that Ms. LaBonte be found as charged. The motion was seconded by Lisa Freeman and passed unanimously.

Mary Brown moved that Ms. LaBonte's license be revoked. The motion was seconded by Gina Reiners and passed unanimously.

HEARING – ANDREA BUNNELL, LPN

Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Bunnell was present pro se. Testimony was provided by Ms. Bunnell.

Gina Reiners moved that Ms. Bunnell be found as charged. Mary Brown seconded the motion with a slight technical change in Allegation No. 4 to add the word "Respondent." The motion passed unanimously.

Gina Reiners moved, which was seconded by Mary Brown, that Ms. Bunnell's license be revoked. The motion passed unanimously.

Break: 11:03 AM – 11:20 AM

HEARING – LYNDSEY PAUL, RN

Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Paul was not present and did not have representation at this hearing. Board Member Ellen Komar recused herself from this proceeding and left the room during the hearing and fact finding. There was no testimony provided. Mary Brown did move to make a technical change to Ms. Paul's RN License Number in the Statement of Charges. The correct License Number is 119166. Lisa Freeman seconded the change which passed unanimously. Attorney Fazzina made an Oral Motion to Deem Allegations Admitted. In view of the fact that Ms. Paul was not in attendance and she did not file an Answer to the Statement of Charges, Jennifer Long moved to grant the Department's Motion to Deem. The motion was seconded by Carrie Simon and passed unanimously.

Carrie Simon moved, which was seconded by Gina Reiners, to find Ms. Paul as charged. The motion passed unanimously.

Carrie Simon moved that Ms. Paul's license be revoked based on the drug diversion in both Connecticut and New Jersey and also the fact that she lied on her nursing application regarding prior disciplinary action. The motion was seconded by Gina Reiners and passed unanimously.

Board Member Ellen Komar returned to the hearing room.

HEARING – MATTHEW HOPKINS, RN

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton was present representing the Department of Public Health. Mr. Hopkins was present pro se. Testimony was provided by Mr. Hopkins.

Mary Brown moved that Mr. Hopkins be found as charged with the following two exceptions. Allegation #1: Mr. Hopkins stated that he lives in Andover, Connecticut not North Branford, Connecticut as stated in the charges. He stated that he has never lived in North Branford, Connecticut.

Allegation #3: Mr. Hopkins was not obligated to provide copies of support group attendance until August as stated in the Consent Order dated April 1, 2015.

The motion was seconded by Jennifer Long and passed unanimously.

Mary Brown then moved that the terms of the Consent Order dated April 1, 2015 be reiterated in a Memorandum of Decision and that the Summary Suspension of June 17, 2015 remain in place until the Memorandum of Decision has been reaffirmed and signed by the Board at which time the probationary terms will restart. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Long and passed with all in favor with the exception of Ellen Komar who was opposed.

HEARING – KAREN LEMERY, RN

Staff Attorney Joelle Newton was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Lemery was present pro se.

Attorney Newton presented the Board with a Consent Order for Ms. Lemery. After review of the document presented, Jennifer Long moved that the Board accept the Consent Order as written. The motion was seconded by Mary Brown and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Order.

HEARING – JENNIFER J. REINHARD, LPN

Staff Attorney Ellen M. Shanley was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Reinhard was present pro se. Testimony was provided by Ms. Reinhard.

The Department had filed a written Motion to Deem Allegations Admitted as Ms. Reinhard had not provided an Answer to the Statement of Charges. Jennifer Long moved to deny the Department's Motion as it was now moot as Ms. Reinhard was present to respond to the charges. The motion was seconded by Gina Reiners and passed unanimously.

Gina Reiners moved that Ms. Reinhard be found as charged. The motion was seconded by Carrie Simon and passed unanimously.

Gina Reiners moved that Ms. Reinhard's license be placed on probation for two years with the following conditions: employer and therapist reports monthly for the first year and quarterly for the second year; attendance at a minimum of six to eight support group meetings monthly for both years; drug/alcohol screen reports weekly for the first and last six months of probation and monthly for the remainder of the probationary period; successful completion of coursework in medication administration; no access to narcotic keys nor be allowed to administer controlled substances for the first six months upon her return to work as a nurse; and she shall not be employed as a nurse for a personnel provider service, assisted living service agency, homemaker-home health aide agency, or home health care agency, and not be self-employed as a nurse for the first six months of her probation. The motion was seconded by Carrie Simon and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

It was the unanimous decision of the Board Members present to adjourn this meeting at 2:10 PM.

After the adjournment of today's meeting, Chair Bouffard provided the students with an overview of the Board's responsibilities, jurisdiction, and nursing education programs.

Patricia C. Bouffard, D.N.Sc., Chair
Board of Examiners for Nursing